

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O P 292025Z MAR 78
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USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 2353

EXDIS (UPGRADED PER S/S-O)

PASS PRESIDENT'S PARTY FOR SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, TU, US
SUBJ: US-TURKEY RELATIONS-DEPUTY SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH
TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER

1. BRIEF MEETING WAS HELD WITH FOREIGN MINISTER OKCUN,
MFA SECRETARY GENERAL ELEKDAG, AND OTHER SENIOR MFA STAFF
LATE MORNING MARCH 29 FOLLOWING SESSION WITH PRIME MINISTER
ECEVIT(SEPTEL). THIS CABLE ALSO SUMMARIES DISCUSSION
AT LUNCH GIVEN IN HONOR OF DEPUTY SECRETARY BY FOREIGN
MINISTER.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE WANTED TO RETURN TO SECURITY
SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE (SSA). HE MADE ARGUMENT THAT
SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS COULD NOT BE DIVORCED EITHER FROM
CONSIDERATIONS OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE ONE
HAND OR FROM ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS ON THE
OTHER. INDEED, THIS APPROACH WAS ENSHRINED IN THE
NATO TREATY. TO GET DOWN TO BRASS TACKS, COULD
THE 50 MILLION DOLLARS IN SSA BE INCREASED? IN THIS
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CONNECTION, HE WISHED TO POINT OUT THAT US ASSISTANCE
TO EGYPT AND OTHER COUNTRIES WAS OF A MUCH GREATER MAGNITUDE.

3. DEPUTY SECRETARY REPLIED THAT THE AMOUNTS WERE
NOT CASUALLY ARRIVED AT. THEY WERE THE MAXIMUM THE
PRESIDENT AND HIS ADVISORS THOUGHT THEY COULD GET
FROM THE CONGRESS FOR 1979. HE REMINDED THE FOREIGN

MINISTER THAT HE HAD SAID TO THE PRIME MINISTER THAT THIS COULD BE A BEGINNING AND THAT WE COULD HAVE A CONTINUING PROGRAM. ELEKDAG CHIMED IN TO EXPAND OKCUN'S ARGUMENT THAT DEFENSE AND ECONOMICS COULD NOT BE SEPARATED IN TURKEY. HE POINTED TO LARGE MILITARY BURDEN TURKEY WAS CARRYING AND CITED GEN. HAIG AND OTHERS. IN ADDITION, THERE HAD BEEN AN ACCUMULATION OF SHORTFALLS OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS THAT HAD TO BE MADE UP. TURKEY HAD CRUCIAL ECONOMIC NEEDS AS WELL AS A NEED TO IMPROVE ITS MILITARY POSTURE.

3. DEPUTY SECRETARY REPLIED THAT US OFFICIALS WERE CONSCIOUS OF THE POINTS OKCUN AND ELEKDAG WERE MAKING. THE TURKISH MILITARY FORCES DID NEED REPAIR AND DID NEED TO BE BROUGHT UP-TO-DATE. IN THIS CONNECTION HE WISHED TO REITERATE THAT THERE WAS APPROXIMATELY 87 MILLION DOLLARS IN GRANT MAP IN THE PIPELINE WHICH WOULD HELP WITH SHORT-TERM NEEDS. THE 50 MILLION DOLLARS IN SSA WAS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE THAT COULD BE USED FOR BOP SUPPORT. OBVIOUSLY LARGER AMOUNTS WOULD ENABLE THE TURKS TO DO MORE, BUT THESE WERE THE AMOUNTS THAT WERE FEASIBLE AT THIS TIME.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER THEN SHIFTED ARGUMENT TO MORE SPECIFICALLY ECONOMIC TERMS. HE SAID GOT NEEDED
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HELP TO OVERCOME ITS PROBLEMS. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT PROPOSED 175 MILLION DOLLARS FMS CREDIT LEVEL WAS THE SAME AS IN 1978. THIS WAS NOT ENOUGH FOR MINIMUM MILITARY PURPOSES. PRICES WERE UP AND THERE WERE SHORTFALLS FROM THE LAST THREE YEARS.

5. DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID THAT FMS AND SSA WERE SEPARATE MATTERS, ALTHOUGH RELATED. THE FIGURES HE HAD GIVEN WERE THOSE ARRIVED AT BY THE PRESIDENT AS WHAT WERE FEASIBLE IN A YEAR IN WHICH WE WERE REESTABLISHING OUR MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH TURKEY. NIMETZ ADDED THAT DURING HIS VISIT A FEW WEEKS AGO SAA HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AND HE HAD SAID THEN THAT NOTHING WAS POSSIBLE IN FY 79, BUT PERHAPS SOMETHING COULD BE DONE IN FY 80. NOW THE PRESIDENT HAD DECIDED TO ADD SSA IN FY 79. THIS WOULD BE PSYCHOLOGICALLY IMPORTANT IN THE WORLD COMMUNITY AND, OF COURSE, WOULD HAVE TANGIBLE BENEFITS AS WELL. HE ADDED THAT WITHIN THE OECD CONSORTIUM FOR TURKEY MORE MIGHT NOW BE POSSIBLE NOW THAT THE TURKISH IMF AGREEMENT HAD BEEN SIGNED. PERHAPS OTHER THINGS WOULD ALSO BE POSSIBLE.

6. FOREIGN MINISTER REPLIED THAT HE HAD BEEN VERY DISAPPOINTED IN READING THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY NIMETZ-ELEKDAG DISCUSSIONS. HE FELT THAT THE TURKISH APPROACH WAS DIFFERENT AND WAS BROADER THAN THE U.S. APPROACH. HE WISHED TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY IN A DEVELOPING COUNTRY LIKE TURKEY. HE BELIEVED THE AMERICANS WERE LOOKING AT THE PROBLEM PRIMARILY THROUGH MILITARY EYES. HE REEMPHASIZED THAT DEFENSE COULD NOT BE SEPARATED FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO STRENGTHEN THE TURKISH ECONOMY AS WELL AS THE TURKISH DEFENSE.

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7. DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID THAT HE AGREED AND THAT WAS WHY THERE WAS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN THE PACKAGE. HE AGREED THAT IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT THAT TURKEY AND THE US AGREED ON VALUES SUCH AS DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS. AND HE OBSERVED THAT VERY FEW COUNTRIES GET SSA. THE FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTED "WE AGREE IN PRINCIPLE BUT NOT ON AMOUNTS".

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED PRESIDENT'S PARTY FOR SECRETARY.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ANKARA 2353

EXDIS (UPGRADED PER S/S-O)

PASS PRESIDENT'S PARTY FOR SECRETARY

8. ELEKDAG DESCRIBED TURKEY'S LARGE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT WHICH WAS SIZE IT IS BECAUSE OF THE THREATS IT FACED. THERE WAS NOW SERIOUS HARDWARE PROBLEMS HE SAID STEMMING FROM THE EMBARGO. THERE WAS REAL DANGER THAT TURKISH HARDWARE WOULD DETERIORATE INTO A MASS OF IRON AND STEEL. THE 175 MILLION DOLLARS IN FMS CREDITS DID NOT MEET EVEN MINIMUM MAJOR EQUIPMENT NEEDS.

9. AMBASSADOR SPIERS SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT'S APPROACH WOULD LAY THE BASIS FOR A BETTER WAY OF DOING THINGS. WE COULD PLAN TOGETHER. AT PRESENT WE DID NOT KNOW WHAT WE WERE DOING. THERE WAS A NEED TO PLAN TOWARD AGREED OBJECTIVES. NOW THE DOOR WAS OPEN, ALTHOUGH NOT TOO MUCH COULD BE DONE DURING THE FIRST YEAR. WE MUST STOP TAKING FIGURES OUT OF THE AIR AND BE SPECIFIC. AMBASSADOR BATU INTERJECTED THAT A MEETING ON NATO LONG-TERM PLANNING WAS COMING UP. TURKEY COULD NOT POSSIBLY MAKE THE REQUIRED LTP COMMITMENT. WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE HOWEVER? WOULD
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THERE BE MORE MONEY UNDER A NEW DCA? COULD
THERE BE ANYTHING LATER THIS YEAR?

10. FOREIGN MINISTER SUMMED UP THAT THERE WAS A GAP BETWEEN ENDING THE EMBARGO AND THE NEGOTIATION OF A NEW DCA. HE REFERRED TO POINTS 2 AND 3, I.E. 50 MILLION DOLLARS IN SSA AND 175 MILLION DOLLARS IN FMS, AS INTERIM STEPS. THE POINT WAS THAT THEY WERE NOT SUFFICIENT. TURKEY HAD SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES PARTLY FROM THE EMBARGO, PARTLY FROM INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND PARTLY FROM MISTAKEN DEMIREL POLICIES. AS THE PRIME MINISTER HAD SAID, TURKEY NEEDED BREATHING SPACE. THEREFORE, POINTS 2 AND 3 MUST BE INCREASED. THERE COULD ALSO BE A FIFTH POINT: CREDITS FOR TURKISH PROJECTS ON SOFT-TERMS.

11. NIMETZ POINTED OUT THAT IN ADDITION TO EXIM LOANS THERE WERE ALSO WORLD BANK POSSIBILITIES. SECRETARY VANCE HAD TALKED TO MCNAMARA WHO WOULD BE VISITING TURKEY SOON. THE US HAD A LIMITED AID BUDGET, BUT WOULD TAKE SERIOUSLY THE FONMIN'S POINTS. OKCUN MUST UNDERSTAND THAT US FLEXIBILITY WAS LIMITED. THE IMPORTANT THING WAS TO MOVE AHEAD.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY ADDED THAT ECONOMIC AID
WOULD BE COMING IN FOLLOWING THE IMF AGREEMENT.
THE FOREIGN MINISTER CONCLUDED: " THAT I INSIST THAT
YOU CONSIDER INCREASING POINTS 2 AND 3".

12. AT SUBSEQUENT LUNCHEON CONVERSATION MUCH OF SAME
GROUND WAS COVERED. TURKS PROBED FOR US THINKING AS
TO WHEN DCA MIGHT BE NEGOTIATED. WE EMPHASIZED THAT WE HAD
NO FIRM PRECONCEIVED NOTIONS BUT WE WOULD WANT TO TAKE
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ACCOUNT OF CHANGED NATURE OF FACILITIES IN TURKEY,
SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH ANY TYPE OF MULTI-YEAR FINANCIAL
COMMITMENT, AND DESIRABILITY OF REACHING SOME CON-
SENSUS ON TURKEY'S DEFENSE EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS OVER
SPAN OF SEVERAL YEARS. WE ALSO AGREED THAT FOLLOWING
LIFTING OF EMBARGO, WE COULD PROVIDE ITEMS LISTED IN
DCA SWEETENER PACKAGES DEPENDING ON AVAILABILITIES.

13. DEPUTY SECRETARY AND NIMETZ ALSO STRESSED
POTENTIAL RISKS OF OPENING UP ENTIRE PACKAGE SHOULD
EFFORTS BE MADE TO INCREASE EITHER PROPOSED SSA OR
FMS CREDIT LEVELS.

14. WHEN SECTION 620(X) IS LIFTED, WE INDICATED
THAT LEGAL IMPEDIMENT TO SALES OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT
ENUMERATED IN NOTE ANNEXED TO 1976 DCA WOULD BE
REMOVED. CURRENT AVAILABILITY OF THOSE EQUIPMENT
ITEMS WOULD HAVE TO BE CHECKED.

15. DEPUTY SECRETARY UNDERTOOK BRIEF FRG AND UK
OFFICIALS ON HIS DISCUSSIONS IN ANKARA WHEN HE SAW THEM
LATTER THIS WEEK AND THOUGHT THEY WOULD BE REASSURED
BY RPROGRAM FOR TURKEY WHICH HE HAD OUTLINED.
SPIERS

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED.

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